U.S. Geological Survey Technology Transfer Opportunity

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is interested in entering into a partnership with private industry for commercialization of the Spatial Data Transfer Standard (SDTS)-Common Software Platform (CSP) software.
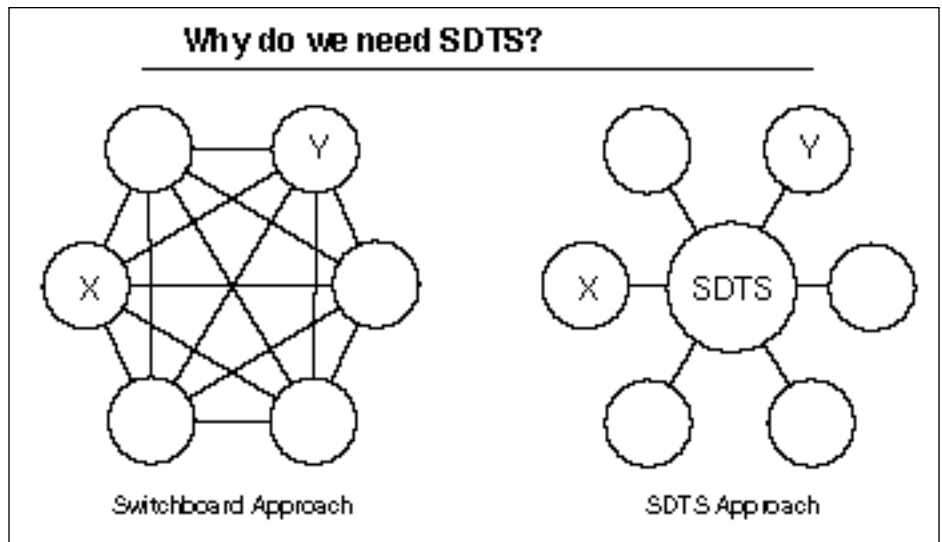
The SDTS serves as the national spatial data transfer mechanism for all Federal agencies. The SDTS software provides:

- Potential for increased access and sharing of spatial data

- Reduction of information loss during data exchange

- Elimination of the duplication of data acquisition

- An increase in the quality and integrity of spatial data

The SDTS-CSP is used to convert USGS digital spatial data to SDTS format, encoding and decoding these data using a set of C++ libraries. This software, written to operate on a high-end UNIX workstation, meets USGS internal requirements for conversion of USGS data to SDTS format.

There is a growing demand for software that can read SDTS-formatted data into desktop publishing systems. The USGS believes that enhancing the existing SDTS-CSP software through memory and operations optimization, porting to additional software platforms such as Windows 95, Windows NT, and OS2, and developing technical reference documentation and users guides could benefit a commercial partner through wider demand for end-user software applications based on SDTS data.

Transfer of this software technology to the private sector is necessary for the general acceptance of SDTS. The USGS has an interest in seeing that some form of this code remains in the public

Why do we need SDTS?

Switchboard Approach · SDTS Approach

domain; the private partner will have an interest in developing value-added, proprietary code. Both of these goals can be achieved, but specifics will need to be negotiated.

Through a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) or other partnership mechanism, the USGS is interested in transferring the SDTS-CSP software to a private partner with an interest in and ability to commercialize the SDTS-CSP software for the retail market. The ideal partner will have working knowledge of GIS standards and be experienced in object-oriented programming. The USGS is looking for a proven track record in the development and marketing of commercial software.

The USGS's interest in cooperating with the private sector of SDTS-related software development is not isolated to CSP commercialization. We encourage responses from vendors considering the development of any SDTS translation or application software.

The USGS welcomes proposals from interested parties. For additional information on this technology transfer

opportunity, we invite you to contact:

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Information

Additional information about SDTS and the CSP is available on the World Wide Web server. The Web address is:

ftp://sdts.er.usgs.gov/pub/sdts
http://mcmcweb.cr.usgs.gov/~sdts